

**NAVAL RESERVE OFFICERS TRAINING CORPS  
LEADERSHIP AND ETHICS**

**LESSON GUIDE: 11B**

**HOURS 1.0**

**TITLE: CONDUCT OF WAR/HONOR ON THE BATTLEFIELD**

**I. Learning Objectives**

**A. Reading Objectives:**

1. The student will know the notions of degree of force and destruction justified in pursuit of a legitimate military target or objective.
2. The student will comprehend that in international law and morality, it is not the case that "anything goes" in wartime. Not all available military means can be justifiably employed, even when the cause or ultimate objective itself is justifiable.
3. The student will comprehend how utilitarian thought supports the rules of war (for example, directly targeting noncombatants or mistreating prisoners of war would be in contrast to utilitarian premises).
4. The student will comprehend how "absolutism" or Kantian Ethics do not allow for such negative outcomes as "collateral damage" or incidental death.

**B. Discussion Objectives:**

1. The student will comprehend the moral standards to which military professionals are held, in comparison with members of the general public.
2. The student will apply the principles of Just War and the Law of War to concrete examples drawn from recent military conflicts.
3. The student will comprehend that there are limits on what a military can and should do to its country's enemies and opponents during a war.

## II. References and Texts

### A. Instructor References:

1. Ethics and the Military Profession, Chapter 4B
2. Case Studies in Military Ethics, Appendix B, Chapters 1-2
3. Just and Unjust Wars, Chapters 18 and 19
4. Naval Law, 3<sup>rd</sup> ed., Chapters 12 and 13
5. There are many articles and resources that offer arguments about "The Decision to Use the Atomic Bomb." Some of these resources include:
  - a. "The Decision to Use the Atomic Bomb," Henry L. Stimson. Harper's Magazine 194 (February 1947): 101-102, 106-107
  - b. "The Hydrogen Bombing of Cities," John C. Ford. "Theology Digest," Winter 1957
  - c. "An Introduction to the My Lai Courts Martial," by Doug Linder, 8 July 2001, located at:  
[http://www.law.umkc.edu/faculty/projects/trials/mylai/Myl\\_intro.html](http://www.law.umkc.edu/faculty/projects/trials/mylai/Myl_intro.html)

### B. Student Texts:

1. Ethics and the Military Profession, Chapter 4B
2. "Incident at a Roadblock," Case Studies in Military Ethics, pp. 45-46
3. "Interdiction in Afghanistan," Case Studies in Military Ethics, pp. 17-24
4. Naval Law, 3<sup>rd</sup> ed., Chapters 12 and 13

## III. Instructional Aids:

### A. VCR/Monitor or projection system